

REMARKS

Applicant has amended the specification to remove reference to specific claims and has amended Claim 1 to clarify the present invention.

As now amended, Claim 1 is to a wiring harness slack absorbing device that has a case having a base wall, front wall, rear wall, pair of side walls and a cover for receiving a wiring harness, the case having an inlet formed in a side wall adjacent the rear wall, and an outlet formed in the rear wall for the wiring harness. The inlet is perpendicular to the outlet. An urging member is provided for urging the wiring harness toward an inside of the case, and a harness roller is provided around which the wiring harness is rolled, with the harness roller reciprocally moving under acting force of the urging member. A space for receiving a folded part of the wiring harness is formed by forming an overlap and then bending the wiring harness 90 degrees, between the base wall of the case and the urging member, and the folded part of the wiring harness is led into the case through the inlet and received in the space. Such an arrangement of a wiring harness slack absorbing device is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Nishitani et al. (U.S. 5,877,936), and Claim 2 is rejected as anticipated, or obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of that reference. Reconsideration and removal of these rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, it is alleged that Nishitani shows a device that has a case (10) for receiving a wire harness, with an inlet perpendicular to an outlet, an urging member (27) urging the harness toward an inside of the case, and a harness roller (23) around which the harness is being rolled, which roller reciprocally moves by action of the urging member. It is also alleged that a space is provided, between the case and the urging member, for receiving a folded part of the harness (folded by 12 and 23), and that the folded part is led into the case (10) through the inlet and received in the space (referring to FIG. 4 and FIG. 5). The Office Action, with respect to Claim 2, alleges that a center axis of the urging member is displaced from a center plane of the harness roller to provide the space, or alternatively such displacement of the center axis would be obvious.

While Nishitani may appear similar in structure to the device of originally filed Claim 1, the present amendment shows significant and important structural differences between the reference device and the present claimed invention.

As now amended, Claim 1 provides for a base wall, front wall, rear wall and pair of side walls, with the inlet formed in the side wall adjacent the rear wall and the outlet formed in the rear wall. The amendments to the claim also specify that the space is provided between the base wall and the urging member and that the folded part of the wire harness is formed by forming an overlap and bending of the wire harness 90 degrees, as described in the specification

Such structural features and advantages provided thereby are not present in Nishitani, and Applicant believes Claims 1 and 2 are patentable thereover.

In view of the present amendments to the claims and the above remarks, claims 1 and 2, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/564,955
Reply to OA dated September 12, 2006

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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